



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Hermann Hirt. *Der indogermanische Ablaut, vornehmlich in seinem Verhältniss zur Betonung.* Strassburg. K. J. Trübner, 1900.

IN the second edition (1897) of Vol. I of the *Grundriss der vergl. Grammatik* Brugmann seems, in dealing with the subject of Ablaut, to have fallen upon times of distrust. Comparison with the first edition (1886) shows a decided retreat from generalizations and systematization. Instead of a system arranging all the phenomena under three or four recognized grades, there appears a cautious summary of the facts in thirty or more illustrative groups, some of which evidently have relations, while some are hopeless monads. The novice in comparative grammar who looked through the pages on ablaut and learned that the following vowel diversities were possible within the range of a :— $\hat{a}:a$; $\hat{a}:\bar{a}$; $\hat{a}:\acute{a}$; $a:\bar{a}$; $a:\acute{a}$; $a:\tilde{a}$; $\bar{e}:\bar{a}$; $\hat{a}:au$,—was not likely to appreciate why a few more could not be advantageously added, especially if groups like the following were permissible: $a:\bar{i}$; $u:\bar{o}$; $\bar{u}:\bar{o}$; $\bar{i}:\bar{e}$; $i:\bar{i}$; $i:\bar{e}$, etc. Considering that nearly all the possible arrangements of the vowels were employed, it might surely seem as if some unfair discrimination had been made against neglected combinations, such as e. g. $\bar{a}:\bar{u}$! The fact is, however, that Brugmann in this presentation of the material was rigidly consistent with himself and true to his distrust. The pages in question were really symptomatic of a reaction which was everywhere felt, a reaction which expressed dissatisfaction with the hitherto accepted schemes and was a call for a larger and fuller classification of the facts.

Such a classification Hirt has undertaken in the book before us. His results involve a reestablishment of the main, essential features of the older scheme. The phenomena which we have commonly treated under the head of ablaut are found to be dependent upon variations of accent within the primitive word, viz., weakening (reduction) and vanishing of the vowel upon withdrawal of the accent, qualitative changes ($e > a$, etc.) upon dislodgment of the accent-balance in composition or upon other dislodgments of later date than those which caused the phenomena of weakening and vanishing.

While the outcome of the work, however, is on one side a conservative one, it would be a misconception to suppose that

nothing new is offered and no advance made. Old views are retested; fragmentary suggestions are tested in the light of the whole; a tolerably consistent scheme and theory of the whole is offered, which avoids some weaknesses and difficulties apparent in the older schemes; a series of new and valuable solutions of minor difficulties is presented. The work has been worth while. Ablaut had temporarily lost its bearings. It has now taken another observation and is once more on its course.

A guiding principle in the new observation was the full recognition of the undoubted fact that ablaut was a phenomenon of complete words used in sentence connection,—and not merely of roots. The practical importance of this recognition shows itself throughout the entire work. Among the new points of view brought into the account none exceed in importance those obtained from a frank acceptance of the essential correctness of Streitberg's theories concerning the *dehnstufe* (*Indog. Forschungen* III, 305 ff.). No one can deal fruitfully to-day with ablaut questions who withholds this acceptance. Therein lay Brugmann's embarrassment. The recognition of the *dehnstufe* as a vowel-protraction conditioned upon and compensatory for syllabic loss removes at a stroke a vast mass of encumbering material and introduces light and order where there was chaos before.

Among the devices employed to bring scattered and recalcitrant remnants into the system, the most important is the postulating¹ of a new intermediate grade both for heavy vowels and light and its intrusion under the title of 'reduktionsstufe' between 'vollstufe' and 'schwundstufe.' This constitutes indeed one of the definite characteristics of the new system. All vowels which at the time the accent was potent did not bear the chief tone are, as a first step, the author holds, 'reduced,' the short vowels turn *e*, *o*, *a* to minima which in defiance of typographical convenience he represents in brevier set half below the line, the long vowels to forms represented by *ē*, *ō*, *ā*, which maintain themselves distinct from *e*, *o*, *a*, on the one hand, and from *schwa*(*ə*) on the other. The little vowels in sinking brevier serve the purpose of shelter for the root vowels of *πῆπτός*, *gībans*, *ποδός* (for **πεδός*),

¹ The device is in itself not new; Fick, J. Schmidt, Fortunatov and others had already experimented with it.

βανά (: Skr. *gnā*), etc. It is also made to serve for the hitherto mysterious *ι* in Gr. *χθιζός* : *χθές*, *πίτνημι*, *πιτνέω*, *πίσυρες*, etc., as well as for the *ι* in *ἴσθι*, *ῥίζα*, *χέλιοι*, etc., which we had been wont, following Thurneysen, to regard as developed from *z*. Here comes in also the *υ* of *νυκτός*, *ὄνυχος*, *μύλη*, *νύσσω*, and he might have added *γυμνός* (skr. *nagnā-*) which I think of as < **γυβνός* < *gugⁿnós* < (by initial assimilation) *nugⁿnós*. These vowels *ι υ* are believed to represent our sinking breviers in syllables immediately before the accent, *ι*, representing brier *e*, *υ* brier *o*. We wish this might prove true, but we shudder to face the exceptions.

The identification of the *i* of Skr. *dīyāus* with brier *e* (*ei* > *i*) and likewise of the *u* in Skr. *bhrūvas*, Gr. *ὄφρυς* (*eu* > *u*) cf. § 34, 35, is daring. Tender souls that shrank before Streitberg's *dīeyos* will tremble in the presence of Hirt's *deīeyos*, even though it point the way to reconciliation between Skr. *dēvas*, Lith. *dēvas*, Lat. *deivos*, Gr. *δῖος*, (*dēiyo-*), Lat. *deus* (*deius*)!

In the series *eu-ou-u*, *ei-oi-i*, the breviers in combination with *u* or *i* are allowed to account for the *ū* and *ī* that occupied Osthoff's attention in *Morph. Unters.* IV. Hirt's explanation of *ū*, *ī* is therefore essentially a repetition of Osthoff's, and his rejection of 'nebenton' does not make it less so, despite the disclaimer on p. 20.

The reductions of *ā*, *ē*, *ō*, viz. *a*, *e*, *o*, serve to complete the system, and to furnish shelter for the oft cited differentiation in Gr. *στατός*, *θερός*, *δοτός*; otherwise they are little in evidence.

The real significance of the book however is found when we come to the treatment of the dissyllabic and trisyllabic bases. Here the author steps out on to new ground, and bravely. It is ground whose richness as a mining field was long since divined by de Saussure in his *Mémoire sur le système primitif des voyelles*, 1879. True to his conviction that ablaut is a thing of complete words rather than of roots, our author proceeds to apply the possibilities of his multifarious ablaut to extended combinations like *-erā-*, *-elā-*, etc., and even *-ereuō-eīeyā-* and the like. Here we begin to note the range and meaning of the brier vowels, and appreciate the fruits of loyalty to Hübschmann's law (Skr. *i* : Gr. *a* < *ə*, as low grade of a long vowel). The possibilities of *erā-* become: *érā*, *eré*, *rā*, *erə*, *rə*, *ēr*. Lat. *rēmus*, Skr. *arī-tram*, Gr. *ἐρε-τμός*, *ἐρέ-σσω*,

OHG. *ruodar*, Lith. *irti*, OI. *rāme* fall into accord. Root-determinatives and suffixes become mere stranded relics of syllables in the fuller words that once were, and join together to become part and parcel of the ablaut material of the word entire. Thus *genē* 'produce' appears as *genā* in Skr. *janitvā*, as *genē* in Gr. *γένεσις*, as *gnē* in Skr. *jñātis*, as 'dehnstufe' in *jātās*; *onebh* 'mist' appears in Skr. *ambhas*, Gr. *ὄμβρος*, Skr. *nābhas*, Gr. *νέφος*, Skr. *abhrām*, Gr. *ἀφρός*; Skr. *āyūs*, Gr. *αἰών* threaten to unite with Lat. *jūs* by help of *aiewo-*, and even Gr. *φείγω* with *φέβομαι*, *φόβος* by means of *bheweg^u*,—and so the sluice-ways of etymologies are thrown open.

Tentative as much of all this is in detail, taken as a whole,—and only so can it be judged,—it represents a path blazed in the jungle, and a path whose general course the later roadway of the science is bound to follow. BENJ. IDE WHEELER.

BERKELEY, CAL.

Select Poems of Shelley. Edited with Introduction and Notes by W. J. Alexander, Professor of English in University College, Toronto. Ginn & Company, Athenæum Press Series: Boston and London, 1898. Pp. xci, 387.

PROF. ALEXANDER has before this shown an unusual gift for unveiling to others the occult qualities of poetry, and in the present volume he has quite kept up with his promise. If the book is not a commercial success, it will be because there are so few who even wish to become acquainted with Shelley. The editing is in many respects a model of appreciative tactfulness.

The biographical introduction begins somewhat ominously with the remark that many passages in Shelley's life would incur the world's unhesitating censure, 'had he not been a man of genius' (!), but the essential facts are given after all with commendable distinctness, not merely of statement, but also of mental and moral attitude. The author does not altogether escape the gossipy tone, which indeed literary tradition has made inevitable in a Shelley biography; but his gossip is at least neither unwholesome nor impertinent: and the last fifteen pages, which give a concluding estimate of the poet's powers, are a real contribution to criticism. There is nothing of the kind in Shelley literature which so happily combines